Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Homemaker News
EXCLUSIVE TO STATE EXTENSION EDITORS
U. S. D. A. PRESS SERVICE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

No. 187. August 23, 1937.

CHOOSING ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINES

For general family use, a washing machine of at least six-sheet capacity is necessary. If the manufacturer's directions are followed implicitly, most washing machines will give good results. Washing effectiveness is a matter of the weight of the load, the amount of water used, the amount of soap used, and the length of time the machine is run, so no rules can be given concerning the efficiency of types.

Very satisfactory machines may be bought at present for $60 to $70. More expensive models usually have spinner centrifugal dryers instead of wringers. A pump is available in almost any model, even the least expensive, for an additional $10. A pump gets the water out of the machine into the sink instead of the operator's having to drain it off. Any drain opening needs to be protected by a strainer to keep possible lint, buttons, and other material from getting into the pump.

Washing machines receive hard use and are expected to give long service. The various parts of the machine should be well built, and protected from rust and corrosion. The machine should be covered for safety.

The tub is easier to clean if corners are rounded and the lining has no seams or roughness. The linings of most washing-machine tubs are of vitreous porcelain enamel. This is easily cleaned but it will chip if

(more

handled roughly. Die-cast aluminum is a durable material for the tub. It stains easily by contact with strong soap or alkaline water softeners. Certain types of hard water may corrode it. Copper is not easily stained by hot soapy water but requires considerable work to keep it polished. Copper is subject to verdigris, which is poisonous. Since copper is a very good conductor of heat, it is difficult to keep the water hot in a copper tub. Monel metal and stainless steel are being increasingly used in washing machines as in other kinds of household equipment. They are light and strong but quite expensive. Monel metal shows water spots and requires frequent polishing.

Convenience features suggested by _____ (name) home-management specialist of _____ (institution), are: Swivel casters with adjustable shanks; controls so placed that stooping and reaching are unnecessary in operating the machine; moving parts easily lubricated; washing mechanism easily removed and replaced when filling and cleaning the tub.

Safety features, such as a release on the wringer in case of accident, and proper wiring connections, are very important, she says.

# # # #